

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
May 4, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham Presiding

Present: Council Member Roxanne M. Burns
Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.
Council Member Stephen A. Jennings
Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso
Mayor Graham

Also Present: Sharon Addison, City Manager
Robert J. Slye, City Attorney

City staff present: James Mills, Ken Mix, Deputy Fire Chief Russ Randall, Police Chief Donoghue, Amy Pastuf, Mike Sligar, Mike Lumbis, Yvonne Reff, Justin Wood, Brian Phelps, Erin Gardner, Geoffrey Urda, Jeff Polkowski

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 -Establishing Standard Work Day and Reporting For Appointed Officials, City Clerk and Deputy Clerks
- Resolution No. 2 - Approving Agreement For Professional Land Surveying Services, Storino Geomatics
- Resolution No. 3 - Authorizing Supplemental Agreement No. 3 to Federal Aid Highway and Marchiselli Aid Project Agreement, Factory Street Reconstruction, PIN 775315.121, .221, .321 and .322; D032467
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving Contract Renewal for Unarmed Security Services for the Flower Memorial Library, ICU Security and PI
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving Data Processing Service Agreement, Watertown City School District
- Resolution No. 6 - Accepting Bid for Truck Rental Services, T.J. Clement Construction Company, Inc.
- Resolution No. 7 - Adopting the City of Watertown's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2015
- Resolution No. 8 - Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 535 Olive Street from Residence B to Commercial Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment
- Public Hearing - Ordinance Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 535 Olive Street, Parcel 6-04-103, from Residence B to Commercial
- Public Hearing - 2015-2016 Operating Budgets
- Public Hearing - 2015-16 through 2019-20 Capital Budget
- Local Government Sales Taxes in New York State: 2015 Update
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Flyer

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Meeting opened with a moment of silence and Council Member Burns asked that a moment of silence be observed for Gay Wright who passed away this week and had been involved in many community activities.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 20, 2015, was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Roxanne M. Burns, seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler Jr., and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from the Jefferson/Lewis Workforce thanking the City Police Department for their quick response to a recent situation at their business.

Additional petition signatures were received regarding safety concerns along Marshall Place.

Notices of Petition against the City were received from Autozone, Advance Auto Parts, Stateway Plaza Shopping Center, McDonald's Corporation and Home Depot regarding the assessed valuation of real property.

Above communications filed in the City Clerk's Office.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mike Flynn, 29976 St. Rt. 126, Rutland, addressed the chair by reading from a prepared statement emphasizing the City should represent itself with the "best face" in light of an issue at SUNY Potsdam this week. It involved a professor who received threats, and comments were made after the fact by the Mayor in response to media coverage. Mr. Flynn further explained there should be positive messages made to negate the negative ones and stressed the importance of addressing intolerance. He added that he feels a resolution should be passed regarding understanding the need for tolerance on all levels.

S.G. Gates, 157 Dorsey Street, addressed the chair regarding the idea that if the dog park succeeds, it succeeds and if it fails, it fails and what a lousy attitude that is to have toward any project in the City. He added that he does not think the location is a good idea. Recently he said he conversed with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York State Public Health from Albany and noted the site was approved for a dog park but not for a children's playground due to the fact that the soil cannot be disturbed for safety reasons. Mr. Gates said the two entities he met with cannot address animal safety, only the human factor. In addition, he said he was told there should be signs put up warning that dogs should not dig the ground at the dog park due to risk of human health. He pointed out that the businesses who are being asked to donate should be aware of this factor. Mr. Gates said he has been trying to raise support for eight years and when the City offered a piece of land and the group said no, that should have been it and not that the City try to hijack the donation process. He added that he spoke with Senator Ritchie's office regarding the safety of the dogs at the park.

Christa Harris, 405 Fairview Street, addressed the chair reminding Council that she submitted names and addresses of people who are not in favor of the Factory Street dog park location and her submission of those names has not been acknowledged. She explained that she is concerned the increased noise will negatively impact her neighborhood's quality of life. Ms. Harris also referred to the DEC findings of soil

safety. She mentioned the cost of \$50,000 to be used for the dog park and that it could be better spent on the roads or fixing the swimming pool at Thompson Park.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Graham asked the Deputy City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing Concerning Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 535 Olive Street, Parcel 6-04-103, from Residence B to Commercial.

Mayor Graham declared the hearing open at 7:30 p.m.

No one spoke.

Mayor Graham declared the hearing closed at 7:30 p.m.

At 7:31 p.m. Mayor Graham asked the Deputy City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing Concerning the 2015-2016 Operating Budgets

Mayor Graham declared the hearing open at 7:31 p.m.

James Corbin, 104 Woolsey Street, Sackets Harbor, addressed the chair as Chairman of the Board of the Thousand Islands International Tourism Council and read from a prepared statement (not on file in the Office of the City Clerk.) He said he is here to express disappointment that no monies received by the City from the occupancy tax are being utilized for direct promotion of tourism and convention businesses in the proposed budget. The Jefferson County local law that imposes a three percent tax on occupancy of hotels and motels says the proceeds of the tax are restricted to promote tourism and convention within the County. In recent years, due to the buildup of hotels, the City has been receiving nearly \$250,000 from occupancy tax revenues per year, yet has only budgeted \$60,000 per year for publicity. This year, he said, no money is budgeted for publicity. With this proposal, the City will abandon a decades-old policy of balancing bed tax distribution between promotion and infrastructure. With occupancy demand and revenue on decline, now is not the time to eliminate promotional and marketing money, he said, regardless of whether it is through the T.I. Council or the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Corbin referred to the informational packet of tourism materials and the Visit Watertown message and said they look forward to working with the City again.

S.G. Gates, 157 Dorsey Street, addressed the chair in support of the Fire Department and asked that Council not make cuts to that department.

Mayor Graham declared the hearing closed at 7:35 p.m.

At 7:35 p.m. Mayor Graham asked the Deputy City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing Concerning 2015-16 through 2019-20 Capital Budget

Mayor Graham declared the hearing open at 7:35 p.m.

No one spoke.

Mayor Graham declared the hearing closed at 7:35 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 – Establishing Standard Work Day and Reporting for Appointed Officials, City Clerk and Deputy Clerks

Introduced by Council Member Joseph M. Butler Jr.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Watertown (Location Code 20056) hereby establishes the following standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement System based on time keeping system records or their record of activities:

Appointed Officials

Title	Name	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)	Current Term Begin & End Dates	Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System	Record of Activitie s Result
City Clerk	Ann Saunders	7	05/01/15 – 04/30/17 *	Yes	N/A
Deputy City Clerk	Amanda Lewis	7	05/01/15 – 04/30/17 *	Yes	N/A
Deputy City Clerk	Margaret Puccia	7	05/01/15 – 04/30/17 *	Yes	N/A

* Current Term Begin and End Dates defined only for the purpose of this resolution

I, Ann M. Saunders, Clerk of the governing board of the City of Watertown, of the State of New

York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board, at a legally convened meeting held on the 4th day of May, 2015 on file as part of

the minutes of such meeting, and the same is a true copy thereof and whole of such original.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Watertown on this 4th day of May, 2015.

_____ Date enacted _____

(Signature of Clerk)

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 2 – Approving Agreement For Professional Land Surveying Services, Storino Geomatics

Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

WHEREAS in the course of business the City of Watertown routinely has a need for land surveying services, and

WHEREAS the City does not have a licensed land surveyor on its staff to perform routine survey work as the need arises, and

WHEREAS surveying services are professional services within the meaning of the New York General Municipal Law, and

WHEREAS Storino Geomatics has offered to perform routine surveying services for the City in connection with assigned projects at specified rate for identified services on a non-exclusive basis,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement for Professional Land Surveying Services, between the City of Watertown and Storino Geomatics, 179 Conger Avenue, Watertown NY, a copy of which is attached and made a part of said resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Butler inquired about the fee schedule and said they are effective July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016. He inquired about the crew size and cost.

Justin Wood, City Engineer, noted there would be mostly modest increases. Some of the fees have gone down and some have gone up, in comparison with what is in the agreement. Effective 2014, a two-man field crew was \$116.00 per hour, whereas effective July 1, 2015, it is \$117.00 per hour.

Council Member Butler questioned the mileage allowance and asked if all of the work was in the City and if the City ever gets a bill for mileage.

Mr. Wood replied he has not seen a bill for mileage but noted he would have to look at a breakdown on previous invoices but anything that is charged is minimal.

Council Member Butler commented that it is uncommon to receive mileage reimbursement for work in the City and added there has always been a good relationship between the City and Mr. Storino. He said it is important for the City to remain competitive price-wise.

Council Member Macaluso asked if this should be amended.

Council Member Butler noted it may be included as a miscellaneous fee which was pulled from another operating agreement and he would not bill the City for that anyway. He asked if Exhibit A was already negotiated and if it can be amended.

Mr. Wood replied it is a standard agreement that has been carried forward for two other renewals. It is a non-exclusive agreement so the City could seek others if needed for larger projects.

Attorney Slye commented that Mr. Storino's services are like in-fill services, used for smaller projects, and he noted that many larger companies are not willing to do the smaller contracts.

Mr. Wood said this is the last renewal period for this contract so prior to this expiring in 2017, the City will reach out to the surveying community to see if there is interest from other surveyors.

Council Member Macaluso noted she does not have a problem with Mr. Storino but said she is not sure mileage should be paid within the City.

Council Member Butler asked if the agreement could be amended moving forward.

Mr. Wood said if even six jobs are done in a year for the City it pretty much accounts for six trips and at a nominal charge, he may not even charge that. He added that he does not think Mr. Storino would have a problem with that being taken out.

Mayor Graham said that was a good catch and there is no rationale for that charge.

Mr. Wood pointed to some other fees that were blacked out and noted perhaps that one was accidentally left in.

Motion was made by Council Member Joseph M. Butler Jr. to eliminate mileage reimbursement under exhibit A. Motion was seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

At the call of the chair, vote was taken on the foregoing resolution as amended in the agreement and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 3 – Authorizing Supplemental Agreement No. 3 to Federal Aid Highway and Marchiselli Aid Project Agreement, Factory Street Reconstruction, PIN 775315.121. .221, .321 and .322; D032467

Introduced by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

WHEREAS a Project for the Factory Street Reconstruction, PIN 775314.121, .221, .321 and .322 (the “Project”) is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the costs of such program to be borne at the ratio of 80% Federal funds and 20% non-federal funds, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the non-federal share of the costs of the Factory Street Reconstruction Project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown duly convened and does hereby approve the above-subject project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the City of Watertown to pay in the first instance 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the cost of the Factory Street Reconstruction Project work for the Project or portions thereof, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sum of \$9,797,000 is hereby appropriated from the City of Watertown Capital Budget and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phase of the Project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the full federal and non-federal share costs of the project exceeds the amount appropriated above, the City Council of the City of Watertown shall convene as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the City Manager’s office thereof, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary Agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid and/or Marchiselli Aid on behalf of the City of Watertown with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the project and the municipality’s first instance funding of project costs and permanent funding of the local share of federal-aid and state-aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriates therefore that are not so eligible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commission of Transportation by attached it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Butler inquired about the total anticipated federal and state funding and what the City’s share is, referencing water and sewer.

James Mills, City Comptroller, referred to an updated memo at Council's place settings with a net figure of \$2.65 million. He said the water fund is approximately \$600,000 and the sewer fund is roughly \$1.6 million, leaving about \$500,000 in the general fund.

At the call of the chair, vote was taken on the foregoing resolution with all voting in favor thereof.

Resolution No. 4 – Approving Contract Renewal for Unarmed Security Services for the Flower Memorial Library, ICU Security and PI

Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

WHEREAS on June 16, 2014, City Council accepted the bid by ICU Security and PI for unarmed security service for the Flower Memorial Library at the hourly rate of \$20.62,

WHEREAS the contract allows for three one-year extensions to this contract, and

WHEREAS ICU Security and PI would like to renew to contract for one year at the same price,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves extending the contract with ICU Security and PI for one year to provide unarmed security service for the Flower Memorial Library at the hourly rate of \$20.62, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute any paperwork to extend this contract on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

Council Member Butler stated that he knows this is in the current year's budget and asked if it was based on a \$20.62 hourly rate and referred to \$41,000 allotted for the Library.

Ms. Addison noted this rate has not changed and is the same as last year's.

At the call of the chair, vote was taken on the foregoing resolution with all voting in favor thereof.

Resolution No. 5 – Approving Data Processing Service Agreement, Watertown City School District

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has computer equipment which has automated the functions performed within the City Assessment Department, and

WHEREAS the City Assessor's Office is responsible for maintaining the records for all real property within the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the City has the ability to produce assessment rolls, print, fold and seal tax bills and maintain the data needed to accomplish these tasks, and

WHEREAS the Watertown City School District has a need for the services offered by the City's Assessment and Information Technology Departments,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown approves the three (3) year Data Processing Service Agreement with the Watertown City School District, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings and carried with all voting yea.

Motion was made by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings to rescind Resolution No. 2 - Accepting Bid for Truck Rental Services, T.J. Clement Construction Company, Inc. from April 20, 2015. Motion was seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso.

Attorney Slye explained that if Council wishes to adopt Resolution 6 - Accepting Bid for Truck Rental Services, T.J. Clement Construction Company, Inc. from tonight's meeting, then Council must rescind Resolution 2 of April 20.

Mayor Graham asked if rescinding Resolution 2 from April 20 could be part of tonight's Resolution 6 by amending it.

Attorney Slye replied that it could be added.

Council and staff discussed amending tonight's Resolution 6 to say that Council determines that Resolution 2 of April 20, 2015, should be rescinded and then therefore it be resolved that Council would rescind Resolution 2 and adopt Resolution 6 of tonight's meeting.

Motion was made by Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham to amend the following resolution. Motion was seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Resolution No. 6 – Accepting Bid for Truck Rental Services, T.J. Clement Construction Company, Inc.

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received a sealed bid for truck rental services for use by the Public Works Department, per our specifications, and

WHEREAS bid specifications were sent to three (3) area trucking companies, with one (1) sealed bid received and publicly opened and read in the City Purchasing Department on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Manager Amy M. Pastuf reviewed the bid received with the Public Works Department, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by T.J. Clement Construction Company, Inc.,

***WHEREAS The City Council has determined that, in order to give effect to this Resolution, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the City to rescind Resolution No. 2 of April 20, 2015, as amended**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, accepts the bid submitted by T.J. Clement Construction Company, Inc. for truck rental services for use by the Public Works Department as the lowest qualifying bidder meeting our specifications in the amount of \$85.00 per hourly rate.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby rescinds Resolution No. 2 of April 20, 2015, as amended**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the two-year contract will begin July 1, 2015 and end June 30, 2017, with the ability to renew the contract for three additional one-year contracts.

No introduction or vote taken.

Resolution No. 7 – Adopting the City of Watertown’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2015

Introduced by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

WHEREAS on August 5, 2013, the City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City of Watertown to become an Entitlement Grantee under the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grant Program, and

WHEREAS, as an Entitlement Grantee, the City must adopt Annual Action Plans for its Housing and Community Development Program, and

WHEREAS Annual Action Plans have to be developed with community input and citizen participation, and

WHEREAS Staff conducted outreach efforts with local constituency groups and the City Council held a public hearing on March 16, 2015 to solicit public comments regarding the development of funding priorities and projects to be included in the plan, and

WHEREAS a draft of the Program Year 2015 Annual Action Plan was completed and published on April 1, 2015, and

WHEREAS the draft plan was made available to the public for review and placed in various offices at City Hall, at the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, at the Watertown Housing Authority offices and on the City’s website, and

WHEREAS a 30-day public comment period for the plan was held starting on April 1, 2015 after a notice of the comment period was published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, and

WHEREAS the plan was finalized after receiving no public comments,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby adopts and authorizes the submission to HUD of the City of Watertown's Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2015, which allocates the CDBG funds as follows:

Owner Occupied Rehab Program	\$370,000
Rental Rehabilitation Program	\$120,000
Near East and East Sidewalk Project Phase 1	\$ 90,000
Near East Playground Project	\$ 90,000
Huntington Street Tree Project	\$ 8,000
Sidewalk Ramp Project Phase 1	\$ 52,000
Planning & Administration	<u>\$ 54,662</u>
Total	\$784,662

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

Council Member Butler inquired if there are any demolitions planned for the coming year.

Mike Lumbis, City Planner, replied there are not in this coming year but there was money from last year that has not been expended. He added there is approximately \$150,000 that has yet to be used.

Council Member Butler commented about the blight issue and if there are opportunities to remove it, it is important to have some funding options in place so the plans can be executed.

Mayor Graham said staff has done a good job in putting the money to use.

At the call of the chair, vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Resolution No. 8 – Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 535 Olive Street From Residence B to Commercial Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment

Introduced by Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, has before it a proposed Ordinance changing the approved zoning classification of 535 Olive Street, parcel 6-04-103 from Residence B to Commercial, and

WHEREAS the City Council must evaluate all proposed actions submitted for its consideration in light of the State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA), and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, and

WHEREAS the approval of the zone change would constitute such an "Action," and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that changing the zoning classification of this property is an Unlisted Action as that term is defined by 6NYCRR Section 617.2, and

WHEREAS to aid the City Council in its determination as to whether the proposed zone change will have a significant impact on the environment, Part I of a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that:

1. Based upon its examination of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and comparing the proposed action with the criteria set forth in 6NYCRR Section 617.7, no significant impact is known and the adoption of the zone change will not have a significant impact on the environment.
2. The Mayor of the City of Watertown is authorized to execute the Environmental Assessment Form to the effect that the City Council is issuing a Negative Declaration under SEQRA.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Jennings noted the Planning Board voted this down.

Mayor Graham commented that if it is determined there is a significant impact it gets sent back for further study and approving this resolution does not bind Council on the ordinance.

Attorney Slye added it will get an environmental review and said Council is not bound on the ordinance.

At the call of the chair, vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and defeated with all voting nay except Council Member Joseph M. Butler Jr. and Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham voting yea.

Mayor Graham asked for clarification as to the next step.

Attorney Slye replied that by Council defeating the resolution, they are saying it will have a significant impact on the environment. The difficulty with the new forms is that if “no” was answered to a short form, the most that would be required is a long form EAF to be completed. Now, he said, the DEC has said if there is a significant or potential for significant change, there is talk about requiring an environmental impact statement, which is quite an undertaking.

Mayor Graham said the applicant would have to prepare that.

Attorney Slye responded that would have to be done before a zone change could even be considered.

OLD BUSINESS

The Ordinance “Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 535 Olive Street, Parcel 6-04-103, from Residence B to Commercial”. *(Introduced on April 20, 2015; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2015 Minutes Book on page 10 of the 4/20/2015 minutes).*

Laid over under the rules.

STAFF REPORTS

Local Government Sales Taxes in New York State: 2015 Update Household Hazardous Waste Collection Flyer

NEW BUSINESS

Work Session

Mayor Graham discussed the work session for next Monday, May 11. He noted the Fire Chief will not be present.

Ms. Addison said that is correct and the work session will start at 6:30 p.m.

Council discussed which day to hold another work session to discuss the Fire Department. Council concluded that Thursday, May 14, at 7 p.m. would work.

Ornamental Light Posts

Council Member Burns said one of the goals she included in the budget for this year was to work more aggressively with National Grid to make sure the ornamental lights are in proper working condition and are in a condition people want to see in their neighborhoods. Many of them are lacking paint and some are tilting. She stressed the importance of staying on top of this and that there should be some obligation for maintenance.

Privilege of the Floor Comments Regarding Tolerance

Referring to comments made by Mr. Flynn, Council Member Burns said she is not defending the Mayor, but takes exception to the lecture about tolerance given to Council and City staff. She said this is a very tolerant community, mentioning the City's connection with Fort Drum. In addition, she said a high rate of people retire from Fort Drum and stay in this area, alluding to the multi-cultural aspect of the military base, mentioning a dinner gathering with a retired military member.

Tree Planting

Council Member Butler wished to thank Mr. Lumbis and all the volunteers from Rotary and Tree Watertown that planted 40 trees at Jefferson Community College a couple weeks ago. The turnout was tremendous and he said he appreciated all the effort.

Mayor Graham said the volunteers were not just the usual Tree Watertown folks and he mentioned there were many IHC students as well as foreign exchange students from China. He offered thanks to all who participated.

Sheltered Workshops

Council Member Butler noted he received a nice letter from Senator Ritchie regarding sheltered workshops and her efforts to keep them from being phased out as proposed by the Governor's office.

Tourism

Regarding tourism, Council Member Butler said he appreciated the comments made and noted the City is going in a different direction this year but that it is important to review.

Mayor Graham said he agrees with Council Member Butler's comments and it was an interesting situation the City was in this year on the matter and there was a change in policy. He said Council can always choose to reconstitute a program.

Fire Department

Referencing the privilege of the floor comments by Mr. Gates, Council Member Butler said that will play itself out. The commitment the City has made has been \$8-\$9 million per year for the last several years. Looking at the capital plan, there is about \$3 million that the City is planning to spend on equipment and it is not a matter of wanting to spend that much but can the City afford to spend that much, which is what the study intended to look at, he said. No one is here to take jobs away from the Fire Department, he said, and mentioned a few positions that will be put back in the department.

Marshall Place

Mayor Graham asked if there is a solution moving forward on Marshall Place.

Ms. Addison answered there is.

Police Audit

Regarding a response Council owes the State Comptroller's Office on the Police Audit, Mayor Graham noted there is a letter from the Police Chief outlining the answer. He said he would propose to work on a cover letter over the next week and share it with Council, mentioning a deadline of May 18.

June-teenth Festival

Mayor Graham mentioned this is coming up at the Fairgrounds and said it is an excellent cultural exposition.

Clean-Up Day

Coming up this weekend is a clean-up day and Mayor Graham mentioned the DBA would appreciate any volunteers.

New City Employee

Ken Mix, Planning Coordinator, introduced Jeff Polkowski who started today in the Planning Department. Mr. Polkowski introduced himself to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 7:55 p.m. by motion of Council Member Joseph M. Butler Jr., seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Amanda C. Lewis
Deputy City Clerk